**Amendments to the Specification**

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 19, with the following rewritten paragraph:

~~PCT/EP/04396~~ PCT/EP97/04396 (WO 98/07036) teaches a process for determining the status of an organism by peptide measurement. The reference teaches the measurement of peptides in a sample of the organism which contains both high and low molecular weight peptides and acts as an indicator of the organism's status. The reference concentrates on the measurement of low molecular weight peptides , i.e. below 30,000 Daltons, whose distribution serves as a representative cross-section of defined controls. Contrary to the methodology of the instant invention, the '396 patent strives to determine the status of a healthy organism, i.e. a "normal" and then use this as a reference to differentiate disease states. The present inventors do not attempt to develop a reference "normal", but rather strive to specify particular markers which are evidentiary of at least one specific disease state, whereby the presence of said marker serves as a positive indicator of disease. This leads to a simple method of analysis which can easily be performed by an untrained individual, since there is a positive correlation of data. On the contrary, the '396 patent requires a complicated analysis by a highly trained individual to determine disease state versus the perception of non-disease or normal physiology.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 22, line 19, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Chelating ~~Sepharose~~ SEPHAROSE Mini Column

1. Dilute Sera in Sample/Running buffer;

2. Add Chelating ~~Sepharose~~ SEPHAROSE slurry to column and allow column to pack:

3. Add UF water to the column to aid in packing;

4. Add Charging Buffer once water is at the level of the resin surface;

5. Add UF water to wash through non bound metal ions once charge buffer washes through;

6. Add running buffer to equilibrate column for sample loading;

7. Add diluted serum sample;

8. Add running buffer to wash unbound protein;

9. Add elution buffer and collect elution fractions for analysis;

10. Acidify each elution fraction.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 36, line 2, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The instant invention involves the use of a combination of preparatory steps in conjunction with mass spectroscopy and time-of-flight detection procedures to maximize the diversity of biopolymers which are verifiable within a particular sample. The cohort of biopolymers verified within such a sample is then viewed with reference to their ability to evidence at least one particular disease state; thereby enabling a diagnostician to gain the ability to characterize either the presence or absence of [[said]] at least one disease state relative to recognition of the presence and/or the absence of [[said]] <u>the</u> biopolymer.